Rapid Shoreline Inventory—Inventorying Shoreline Resources and Interpreting Shoreline Health

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Abstract

The Rapid Shoreline Inventory (RSI) is a project created by People for Puget Sound with the assistance of regional experts that links the information needs of resource managers and restoration practitioners to well-trained volunteer stewards who collect detailed data about marine and estuarine shorelines. The RSI consists of 6 key components:

1. Identification of resource information needs.

2. Permission to access shorelines from property owners.

3. Careful classroom and field training of volunteers.

4. A rapid inventory of contiguous 150 ft. sections of Puget Sound shoreline.

5. Creation and maintenance of the associated GIS database and web site.

6. Analysis of spatial data for conservation and restoration opportunities.

Rapid Shoreline Inventory data is valuable both for describing the resources found on the shoreline and for developing predictive models of shoreline health. People For Puget Sound has developed a series of models that use RSI data to describe shoreline health and to identify restoration and conservation opportunities. In addition to targeting restoration and conservation actions, RSI data can be used to support several coastal and estuarine management activities including identification of marine protected areas, regional and site land use planning, research, monitoring and oil spill response.